

FACT SHEET

Licensing of Dogs and Identification of Assistance Dogs

(Hawaii Revised Statutes 143-4)

Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) 347-13 states that a person who is blind, deaf, or visually or physically disabled has the right to be accompanied by a trained assistance dog in a place of public accommodation at no additional charge for the dog.

What is an "Assistance Dog?"

An assistance dog is any dog which has been certified as a guide, signal (or hearing), or service dog.

HRS 515-3 defines the various types of assistance dogs as follows:

- a **guide dog** is any dog individually trained by a licensed guide dog trainer for guiding a blind person by means of a harness attached to the dog and a rigid handle grasped by the person,
- a **signal (hearing) dog** is any dog individually trained and certified by a nationally recognized signal dog organization to alert a deaf person to intruders or sounds, and
- a **service dog** is any dog individually trained and certified by a nationally recognized service dog organization to assist a person with a disability in performing essential activities of daily living.

Why should an assistance dog be licensed?

Having a dog licensed as a certified guide, signal, or service dog provides proof that the dog is an assistance dog and not a pet. A licensed assistance dog will be allowed into places where a pet dog would not be permitted.

Where does one apply for a license for an assistance dog?

In Honolulu, the Hawaiian Humane Society issues application forms. The address is 2700 Waialae Avenue, and the phone number is 946-2187.

Who certifies a dog as an assistance dog?

If a dog was trained by a certified trainer or school, the owner should have been provided with certification papers upon completion of the dog's program.

Copies of these papers should be submitted to the Hawaiian Humane Society with a completed application and a determination will be made to license a dog as a certified guide, signal, or service dog. A list of certified organizations and licensed trainers has been provided to the Humane Society by the Disability and Communication Access Board. The list will be updated routinely with input from all appropriate community resources.

If a guide dog is from the Eye of the Pacific, will the dog be issued a license?

HRS 515-3 states that assistance dogs must be nationally certified (by a trainer or a school in the United States). However, the administrative rules adopted by the City and County of Honolulu (City) pursuant to HRS 143-4 state that certification can be national or international. Therefore, in the case of the Eye of the Pacific where dogs come from a certified school in a foreign country, the Humane Society is authorized to issue a license under the City's rules.

When the Humane Society licenses a dog, what is issued?

Upon approval, the Humane Society will issue

- a standard metal dog tag to be displayed on the dog's collar; and
- a Certificate of Animal Registration which will clearly indicate "Guide Dog," "Signal Dog," or "Service Dog." The dog owner must carry this certificate and have it readily available to present it upon request.

Is it necessary to get a new license for a dog even though the old one has not expired?

The owner is not required to obtain a new license prior to the expiration date of the current license. However, the Certificate of Animal Registration will not have the notation that the dog is a guide, signal, or service dog.

If the owner wishes to have this noted on the Certificate of Animal Registration, a copy of the current animal registration must be presented to the City's Director of Finance, with documentation showing that the dog completed training in a certified school. A new Certificate of Animal Registration will be issued with the appropriate notation and the same expiration date. There is no charge for adding this notation to a current certificate.

How much does it cost to get a dog licensed?

In Honolulu, the licensing cost is \$5.30 for a neutered/spayed dog (must have paperwork from the vet), or \$17.30 for a dog that is not neutered/spayed. Licenses are issued on a calendar year basis (January to December) and are good for 2 years.

DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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